IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: DUBOS=2

In re Application of: Roland DUBOS et al.	)	Art Unit:
	)	Examiner:
I.A. No.: PCT/FR01/01461	)	Washington, D.C.
Filed: May 15, 2001	)	January 16, 2002
For: WASTE COLLECTING...	)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Contemporaneous with the filing of this case and prior to calculation of the filing fee, kindly amend as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title please insert the following paragraph:

--REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is the national stage under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application PCT/FR01/01461, filed May 15, 2001 which designated the United States, and which international application was published under PCT Article 21(2) in the English language.--

10/031119
JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 16 JAN 2002

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 3-16 as follows:

3. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 1, characterized in that the internal volume (10, 54) of the waste collecting container (1, 44) for storing waste (8) is not provided with any piece, conduit, or device for waste separation.

4. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 1, characterized in that it has a handle (7) situated on one of the walls other than the link wall (4, 48) and the base wall (2, 46), said handle (7) being located at the outside of the volume defined by said container (1, 44).

5. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 1, characterized in that the base wall (2, 46) is substantially flat.

6. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 5, characterized in that the link wall (4, 48) is substantially flat, said base (2, 46) and link (4, 48) walls being inclined with respect to one another by an angle (α) of between 40° And 70°.

7. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 1, characterized in that it has, outside of the volume (10, 54) for the storage of waste (8), a conduit (42) for return of purified air.

8. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 7, characterized in that said conduit (42) opens:

- at one of its ends into the link wall (4, 48),
- at the other end into the base wall (2, 46).

9. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 7, characterized in that one part of the wall or walls (42a, 42b) of the conduit (42) is common with the walls delimiting the volume(10, 54) for the storage of waste (8).

10. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 1, characterized in that it has a lid (70) disposed on the link wall (4, 48), said lid (70) having an opening (74) communicating with the opening (5, 49) of the link wall (4, 48).

11. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 10, characterized in that the surface area of the opening (74) is between 5% and 25% of the surface area of the opening (5, 49) of of the link wall (4, 48).

12. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 10, characterized in that the cross-section of opening (74) of the lid (70) is between 10 cm^2 and 25 cm^2.

13. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 10, characterized in that the lid (70) or a part of the lid (70) is mounted to pivot about an axis (72) that is spaced from the zone of contiguity.

14. (Amended)Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to claim 10, characterized in that the lid (70) has at least one joint (75) which is

peripheral to the openings, on one and/or the other of its faces.

15. (Amended) Device (12, 22, 31) for separation of waste (8) of the inertial or cyclonic type for an electrical appliance of the vacuum cleaner type, said device (12, 22, 31) having a first tube (38 221) presenting an air inlet orifice (32, 34) capable of receiving air that is aspirated and led by the tube, and an air return orifice, a screw (222, 36) positioned in an axial manner in this first tube (38, 221), a second tube (224, 40) having a diameter smaller than the outer diameter of the screw (222, 36) and situated coaxially in the extension of the first tube (38, 221), in communication over an air path by one end to the return flow end of the first tube and connected by its other end to the suction group (64) by a first evacuation conduit (224, 42), a third tube arranged around the second tube and connected to the return flow end of the first tube in a manner to arrange between the second and the third tube a second conduit (223) for evacuation of waste toward a collecting container (1, 44), characterized in that the container (1, 44) conforms to claim 1.

16. (Amended) Device (12, 22, 31) for separation of waste according to claim 15, characterized in that the screw (222, 36) and the first (38, 221), second (224, 40) and third tubes are substantially parallel to the link wall (4, 48) of the container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8).

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the Abstract which appears on a separate page enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

The above amendment to the specification is being made to insert reference to the PCT application of which the present case is a U.S. national stage. The above amendments to the claims are being made in order to place this case in better condition for examination. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee in this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) separated by a cyclonic or inertial device (12, 22, 31) for a waste collecting appliance of the vacuum cleaner type, the container having several walls (2, 4, 6, 45a, 45b, 46, 48, 50) delimiting a storage volume (10, 54), including a base wall (2, 46) forming the base of the container (1, 44), and at least one link wall (4, 48) provided with an opening (5, 49). The base wall (2, 46) and the link wall (4, 48) are contiguous with one another while presenting either a curve of one and/or the other wall, or an inclination between the walls, and the opening (5, 49) of the link wall (4, 48) is located in immediate proximity to the zone of contiguity between the link wall and the base wall (2, 46).

Version with markings to show changes made

3. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the internal volume (10, 54) of the waste collecting container (1, 44) for storing waste (8) is not provided with any piece, conduit, or device for waste separation.

4. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that it has a handle (7) situated on one of the walls other than the link wall (4, 48) and the base wall (2, 46), said handle (7) being located at the outside of the volume defined by said container (1, 44).

5. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that the base wall (2, 46) is substantially flat.

6. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 5, characterized in that the link wall (4, 48) is substantially flat, said base (2, 46) and link (4, 48) walls being inclined with respect to one another by an angle (α) of between 40° And 70°.

7. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that it has, outside of the volume (10, 54) for the storage of waste (8), a conduit (42) for return of purified air.

8. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 7, characterized in that said conduit (42) opens:

- at one of its ends into the link wall (4, 48),
- at the other end into the base wall (2, 46).

9. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of claims~~claim 7 ~~or 8~~, characterized in that one part of the wall or walls (42a, 42b) of the conduit (42) is common with the walls delimiting the volume(10, 54) for the storage of waste (8).

10. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, characterized in that it has a lid (70) disposed on the link wall (4, 48), said lid (70) having an opening (74) communicating with the opening (5, 49) of the link wall (4, 48).

11. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 10, characterized in that the surface area of the opening

(~~74~~) is between 5% and 25% of the surface area of the opening (5, 49) of of the link wall (4, 48).

12. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of claims~~claim 10 ~~and 11~~, characterized in that the cross-section of opening (74) of the lid (70) is between 10 cm^2 and 25 cm^2.

13. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of claims~~claim 10 ~~to 12~~, characterized in that the lid (70) or a part of the lid (70) is mounted to pivot about an axis (72) that is spaced from the zone of contiguity.

14. (Amended) Removable container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8) according to ~~one of claims~~claim 10 ~~13~~, characterized in that the lid (70) has at least one joint (75) which is peripheral to the openings, on one and/or the other of its faces.

15. (Amended) Device (12, 22, 31) for separation of waste (8) of the inertial or cyclonic type for an electrical appliance of the vacuum cleaner type, said device (12, 22, 31) having a first tube (38 221) presenting an air inlet orifice (32, 34) capable of receiving air that is aspirated and led by the tube, and an air return orifice, a screw (222, 36) positioned in an axial manner in this first tube (38, 221), a second tube (224, 40) having a diameter smaller than the outer diameter of the screw (222, 36) and situated coaxially

in the extension of the first tube (38, 221), in communication over an air path by one end to the return flow end of the first tube and connected by its other end to the suction group (64) by a first evacuation conduit (224, 42), a third tube arranged around the second tube and connected to the return flow end of the first tube in a manner to arrange between the second and the third tube a second conduit (223) for evacuation of waste toward a collecting container (1, 44), characterized in that the container (1, 44) conforms to ~~one of claims~~claim 1 ~~to 13~~.

16. (Amended) Device (12, 22, 31) for separation of waste according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 15, characterized in that the screw (222, 36) and the first (38, 221), second (224, 40) and third tubes are substantially parallel to the link wall (4, 48) of the container (1, 44) for collecting waste (8).